

JANE THORNTON.

JANUARY 6, 1832.

Mr. NUCKOLLS, from the Committee on Revolutionary Claims, made the following

REPORT:

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom has been referred the petition of Jane Thornton, report:*

That, at the last session of Congress, a report was made by this committee on the said petition, to which the committee refer and adopt it as their own.

FEBRUARY 2, 1831.

*The Committee on Revolutionary Claims, to whom was referred the petition of Jane Thornton, report:*

The petitioner states that her late husband, Colonel John Thornton, entered the army of the revolution as a Captain in the third Virginia regiment, commanded by Colonel Hugh Mercer, on the 22d of February, 1776, and served as such until the 20th of March, 1777, when he was promoted to the rank of Major in one of the sixteen additional regiments, commanded by Colonel Thruston, and shortly after, in the same year, was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel; that he was in actual service more than three years, and never resigned his commission during the war. That the commissions and other papers, showing more fully the military services of Colonel Thornton, were entrusted, some years ago, to Philip R. Thompson, then a member of the Virginia Legislature, and were presented by him to that body, which decided that, as Colonel Thornton was an officer of the continental, and not the State troops, the application for his bounty land and half pay should be made to the General Government. Those papers were unfortunately mislaid or lost by Mr. Thompson, and have never been recovered. That Colonel Thornton never received the bounty land to which he was entitled; and the petitioner prays that those lands may be

granted to her, and such emoluments as other officers, similarly situated, were entitled to receive. The loss of the original papers has compelled the petitioner to resort to secondary evidence. That loss is shown by the deposition of Isaac Wurston, and a letter addressed to Colonel Thornton by Philip R. Thompson. A letter from James Monroe, late President of the United States, shows that Colonel Thornton held the rank of captain in the third Virginia regiment, as stated in the petition, and was distinguished for his gallantry and good conduct. The deposition of Colonel Abraham Maury shows, that, after the battles of Trenton and Princeton, in which Colonel Thornton was engaged, he was appointed by General Washington a Lieutenant Colonel in one of the sixteen additional regiments raised by order of Congress. Colonel Thornton, in a petition addressed by him to the Virginia Legislature, states, that in March, 1777, he was appointed Major in Colonel Thruston's regiment, and soon afterwards was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the same; that, in that station, he was active in endeavoring to raise the said regiment, and continued his exertions in that line until the summer of 1778, after which he was not called into service, as the regiment was never entirely completed, and there was no command for him; but that he was, nevertheless, at all times ready to perform services when his country demanded them. This statement, the committee think, is sustained by several letters addressed to Colonel Thornton in the years 1777 and 1778, showing that he was then in service. That Colonel Thornton continued to be a continental officer in 1781, and was ready to perform services when required, the committee think is shown by the depositions of Captain Moore, Reuben Rosson, and Thomas Vaughan. They state that, in 1781, during the invasion of Virginia by Lord Cornwallis, the command of a Virginia regiment of militia was, by the order of the Marquis Lafayette, given to Colonel Thornton, as a continental officer. The depositions of Colonel Abraham Maury, of Thomas Walden, and of the petitioner, are also exhibited to show that Colonel Thornton did not resign his commission, but that, in consolidating the regiments, he became a supernumerary officer, in which capacity he remained until the termination of the war. The committee believe, from the evidence in this case, that Colonel Thornton was entitled to the benefit of the resolutions of Congress of October 21st, 1780, and of March 22d, 1783; that this claim was asserted by him in his lifetime, but never received; and that the commutation of five years' full pay is now due to his legal representatives.

A bill is therefore reported.